

HISTORIC CENTER OF SAVANNAH (BULL STREET CORRIDOR SQUARES as representative sample of Savannah City Plan)

Prerequisites for U.S. World Heritage Nominations

Prerequisite 1 - Legal Requirements:

A. National Significance:

Has the property been formally determined to be nationally significant for its cultural values, natural values, or both (in other words, has it been formally designated as a National Historic Landmark, a National Natural Landmark, or as a Federal reserve of national importance, such as a National Park, National Monument, or National Wildlife Refuge)? If not, are there on-going processes to achieve any of the above designations and what is their status? (*Listing in the National Register of Historic Places is not equivalent to National Historic Landmark status.*)

YES: X

NO:

Comment: The property was designated as a National Historic Landmark District in 1977, and was named a National Historic Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers the following year. In 1999, it received the Centennial Medallion of the American Society of Landscape Architects in recognition of the site as a “National Landmark for Outstanding Landscape Architecture.”

B. Owner Concurrence:

Are all the property owners aware of this proposal for the inclusion of the property in the U.S. Tentative List and do all of the property owners agree that it should be considered? If any agreement is uncertain or tentative, or if the ownership situation is disputed, otherwise complicated, or unclear, please explain the issues briefly.

YES: X

NO:

Comment: Squares owned by City of Savannah

F. Serial (multi-component) Properties:

Are you proposing this property as an extension of or a new component to an existing World Heritage Site?

YES: _____ NO X

Name of Existing Site: _____

Prerequisite 3 - Other Requirements:**G. Support of Stakeholders**

In addition to owners, please list other stakeholders and interested parties who support the property's proposed inclusion in the Tentative List. Also note any known to be opposed.

Supporters: City of Savannah, Coastal Heritage Society, Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc.
Other letters to be submitted during public input stage

Opponents: NONE KNOWN

Comment: _____

Information Requested about Applicant Properties

(The numbers of the sections and subsections below are in the same order as and correspond to sections of the World Heritage Committee's official Format used for the nomination of World Heritage Sites. This is to allow easy reference to and comparison of the material.)

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY OR PROPERTIES**1.a. Country:**

If it is intended that the suggested nomination will include any properties in countries other than the United States, please note the countries here.

Explanation: Please note that the United States can nominate only property under U.S. jurisdiction. You are not expected to contact other governments and owners abroad, although you may do so if you wish. Each national government must nominate its own sites, although the

United States will consider forwarding your suggestion to another government for that government to consider as a joint nomination with the United States.

Names of countries: N/A

1.b. State, Province or Region:

In what State(s) and/or Territories is the property located? Also note the locality and give a street address if one is available.

State of Georgia, County of Chatham, City of Savannah

1.c. Names of Property:

Historic Savannah Center (Bull Street Corridor Squares as a representative sample of the Savannah Plan)

1.d-e. Location, boundaries, and key features of the nominated property

1. Sketch map showing boundaries and buffer zone.



1.f. Area of nominated property (ha.)

35.293 Hectares (87.210 Acres)

DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

2.a. Description of the Property

Cultural landscapes (*combined works of nature and humans*)

The Bull Street Corridor is a linear sample of the plan of the City of Savannah that best represents the design's cultural significance in the history of English planning and historical value as a cultural landscape. Johnson, Wright, Chippewa, Madison, and Monterey Squares have been laid out along the city's central axis, Bull Street.

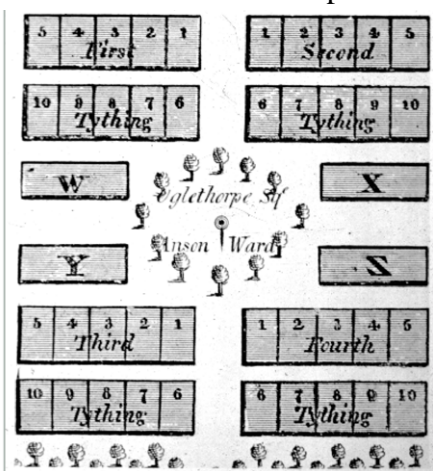


Figure 1 Ward Plan

The original plat was set on a high bluff, overlooking the Savannah River from a steep bank. The plan's design structure is characterized by the interaction of two patterns, a gridiron network of streets and a series of regular green spaces overlaid on this geometric framework. Streets define each ward, cellular units that provide the plan an overall continuity by their repetition while relieving the monotony of the gridiron through open spaces, and act as linear connections between the squares.¹ The ward, composed of twelve blocks consisting of four *trust* and eight *tything* lots organized around a central square, is the plan's most basic module. The first wards, planned upon the city's founding in 1733, were six hundred and seventy five square feet, and were arranged in a set of four parallel to the southern bank of the Savannah River. Each tything lot was sixty by ninety feet. In comparison, each trust lot, in which monumental public buildings were to be placed to define and frame the open square, measured sixty by one hundred and eighty feet. The first squares, Johnson, Ellis, Wright, and Telfair, also had uniform dimensions, at two hundred and seventy by three hundred and fifteen feet. A hierarchy of streets was also set in the original plan, in which the lanes dividing the blocks of tything lots measured only twenty-two and one half feet, while major streets connecting the squares were seventy five feet wide. An even broader street was created to the south of the original row of wards as a second series of squares was developed.

During the Colonial period, the city had only six squares, but by 1790 the population's growth to 2,000 necessitated the development of new wards. Thus, the subdivision of blocks was carried out following the colonial ward system. Warren and Washington Squares were laid out to the east and Franklin Square to the west. In only nine years, the population had again doubled and Columbia, Green, and Liberty Squares were added. By 1851, Savannah's population had reached approximately 14,000, and a total of twenty-four squares had been developed. The city commons, a reserve of land established during the colonial period, had been completely consumed by the growth of the city.

The Savannah plan is thus composed of square-centered communities, constructed on a human scale, through which a modified gridiron carries the flow of traffic around a series of green spaces evenly dispersed over a high bluff. Charles Mackay wrote in 1857 “(Savannah is) an agglomeration of rural hamlets and towns. If four and twenty villages had resolved to hold a meeting and had assembled at this place, each with its pump, its country church, its common, and its avenue of trees, the result would have been a facsimile of Savannah.” The network of streets is thereby broken up by the regular incorporation of open squares, through the repetition of a single unit, the ward. The overall effect of the arrangement is that of an “unusual and intricate pattern,” unique to Savannah.(Reps)

Which features or aspects of the property do you believe qualify it for the World Heritage List ?

The monumental axis of the Savannah plan, the Bull Street Corridor, is qualified for nomination to the World Heritage List based on three key aspects of its development. First, is the ingenuity of the design itself, which is representative of the perfection of square-based planning trends that developed in seventeenth-century England. The Savannah plan goes beyond historic precedence in its system of wards broken into trust and tything lots. Second, is the plan’s implementation on a large scale, in which twenty-four wards cover an area of approximately 197 Hectares (488 Acres). Third, is the relative completeness of the plan. Since the city was founded in 1733, only two of the squares have been modified. Each of five squares composing the Bull Street Corridor remains intact. Thus, through the Bull Street Corridor, the authenticity and integrity of the Savannah plan is best personified.

What are the important present or proposed uses of the property and how do they compare with the traditional or historic uses of it?

Historically the squares served utilitarian civic purposes. Oglethorpe located the sun dial in Johnson Square. Each square had a rainwater cistern in order to fight fires. Cattle grazed in the squares, the militia drilled in the squares, markets were held and they served as places of refuge for outlying colonists under Oglethorpe’s unique regional plan. At one time hay was grown in Johnson Square for the City’s horses. In 1809 the squares took on a more ornamental civic use in that a wooden railing was built to define the space of the square, separating it from surrounding streets and the squares were sown with grass and paved with walkways. In 1825 General Lafayette laid the cornerstone for the first of the great civic monuments that now form the central focus of each square. Currently, the parks have mature landscapes and are furnished with benches and ornamental lighting and serve as passive garden spaces accessible to the public. Today food and arts festivals are held in the square and it is not unusual to hear a musical ensemble sponsored by the City performing for a lunchtime crowd of office workers, senior citizens and girl scouts. The squares still perform their historical use as urban centers of pedestrian activity and exchange.

Consider how both natural and cultural processes have contributed to creating the cultural Landscape and give special attention to the interaction of humans and nature. All major aspects of the history of human activity in the area need to be considered.

The plan of Savannah is laid out on top of a 40 foot bluff. The land sloped off into wetlands on both the East and the West, thus constraining the plan to expand southward with Bull Street forming a strong spine extending to the Forest River on the South. There is evidence that the plan was to extend further to the east, however the terrain required the truncation of the plan and even today the two eastern squares are narrower than the Bull Street squares and the Eastern wards contain one less lot in each block.

The use of repetitive squares was a reflection of the hot climate. They allowed for a healthful flow of air and provided needed shade. They also offered places of refuge in Oglethorpe's regional scheme. Thus in time of war or natural disaster inhabitants of outlying farm lots could gather in the square tied to that series of Farm lots for refuge.

In the nomination of the Savannah Squares as Great Public Spaces under the Project for Public Spaces it is written that "persons walking have the right of way, and typically the broad sidewalks lining the wide streets continue across squares, so that a person can walk from square to square, crossing street after street without having to stop for a car. Downtown Savannah has not needed to be pedestrianized...the plan's ingenious flexibility has accommodated the automobile while preserving a pedestrian pace."

2.b. History and Development of the Property

Cultural landscape

What have been the major aspects of the history of human activity in the area and their impact on the landscape?

In 1732, the southern part of the Carolina territory was granted by George II to a group of trustees led by General James Edward Oglethorpe. Oglethorpe arrived in the port of Charleston with one hundred and fourteen colonists and established the Georgia Colony the following year. In an exchange of correspondence between Oglethorpe and the trustees, who remained in London, he explained how he laid out the colony's first settlement, Savannah:

"I fixed upon a healthy situation on about ten miles from the sea. The river here forms a half-moon, long the south side of which the banks are about forty foot high, and on the top of the flat, which they call a bluff. The plain high ground extends into the country five or six miles, along the river side about a mile...Upon the river-side in the centre of this plain I have laid out the town...The whole people arrived here on the first of February. At night their tents were got up. Till the seventh we were taken up in unloading, and making a crane which I then could not get finished, so took off the hands, and set some to the fortification, and began to fell the woods. I marked out the town and common; half of the former is already cleared, and the first house was begun yesterday in the afternoon..."

An article from the *South-Carolina Gazette* describes how Oglethorpe later gathered the colonists together for the designation of properties and assignment of lots,

"On the 7th of July at Day-break, the Inhabitants were assembled, on the Strand Prayers were read, by way of Thanksgiving. The people proceeded to the Square. The Wards and Tythings were each named, each Tything consisting of ten Houses, and each Ward four tythings. An House Lott was given to each Freeholder."

The laying out of the city and assignment of tything lots in 1733 set a precedent for expansion that was controlled through the repetition of the ward and its component parts. In the colonial period the continuance of the plan was meant to insure a non-hierarchical urban plan, in which the trustees could own property themselves, but even with the advent of speculative real estate in the nineteenth century under private investors, the city's development was guided by the ward system in a uniform pattern, ensuring continued continuity through regulated growth. Throughout the evolution of the city, the Bull Street Corridor has functioned as a prime example of the success of development through the ward system, from the laying out of Johnson Square under Oglethorpe to the creation of Forsyth Park at the street's southern end in 1851. Furthermore, the corridor has functioned as monumental axis, marked by the city's most important monuments, and has become a stage for major events in the history of the Savannah.

Johnson Square (1733), named for South Carolina Governor Robert Johnson, was the civic heart of the colonial city. It was the site of the Trustee's storehouse, a public oven and mill, and stranger's house. It was also known as Church Square, as Christ Church, where Anglican priest, missionary to the Indians and subsequent founder of Methodism John Wesley preached to the colonists. The ceremonial significance of Bull Street within the otherwise non-hierarchical plan of the city was marked by Oglethorpe's placement of a sundial, to keep the city's official time, in the center of Johnson Square. The square became the site of important public gatherings. In 1819, a reception was held there for President Monroe under a pavilion, no longer extant, designed by noted English Regency architect William Jay. A reception was also held for Daniel Webster in 1847. In 1860, the eve of the Civil War, Georgia's Secession flag was unfurled before the Greene monument with a rattlesnake and inscription, "Don't Tread on Me." The monument was designed by William Strickland, a Philadelphia architect and designer of the Second Bank of the United States, a seminal work in the history of Neoclassical architecture. The cornerstone of the monument was laid by French General Marquis de Lafayette in 1825. The square has since become the center of the city's business district, as it is surrounded by banks. Johnson Square has undergone numerous landscaping changes also, including the planting of Pride of India trees and Bermuda grass and the addition of a cedar fence with chains to enclose the square in 1809. In 1852, this fence was replaced by an iron railing. This railing was removed in 1888. Sasaki Dawson and Demay, a Boston landscape architecture firm redesigned the square in the 1960s.

Wright Square (1733) also dates to the colonial period, and like Johnson Square, has been known by multiple names. Officially named for Royal Governor Sir James Wright, it has been called Upper Square, Court House Square, and Market Square. Each of these titles reflects a historic use, and the square now serves as the focal point of the U.S. Federal Courthouse and the Chatham County Courthouse. Monuments were erected to W. W. Gordon, president of the Central of Georgia Railroad, and Tomochichi, Chief of the Yamacraw Indians and friend to Oglethorpe at the time of the colony's founding, in 1883 and 1889, respectively. The Gordon monument was designed by Van Brunt and Howe of Boston. A political rally was held here for Ulysses S. Grant, a republican candidate for president, suggesting the significance of the Bull Street Corridor within the political and social life of the city.

Named for a battle in the War of 1812, Chippewa Square (1815) is particularly notable for the monument to Oglethorpe designed in 1909 by Henry Bacon with sculptor Daniel Chester

French. Bacon and French are best known for their collaboration in the design of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. Savannah's first theater was constructed on the northeast trust lot of Chippewa Square in 1819, further demonstrating the Bull Street's importance as the social and cultural heart of the city.

Madison and Monterey Squares, both laid out in 1847, speak to the success of the wards as neighborhood units. Yet, grand monuments such as the obelisk raised in Monterey Square to honor Count Casimir Pulaski and designed by Latvian-American sculptor Robert Launitz, and the monument in Madison Square to Sergeant William Jasper, a German native further the sense of monumentality originally begun with the placing of the sundial in Johnson Square by Oglethorpe. Both Pulaski and Jasper were mortally wounded in 1779 in the Battle of Savannah during the Revolutionary War.

2.c. Boundary Selection

The Bull Street corridor begins at Bay street to the north, and continues south to Gaston and includes the north end of Forsyth park. The outer edges of the corridor are Whitaker and Drayton Streets. This linear sample best illustrates the totality of the Oglethorpe Plan for Savannah as it evolved over time.

Are all the elements and features that are related to the site's significance included inside the proposed boundaries?

Explanation: Careful analysis should be undertaken to insure that the proposal embraces the internationally significant resources and excludes most, if not all, unrelated buildings, structures and features.

YES: ____X____ NO: _____

Are there any enclaves or inholdings within the property and, if so, do they contain uses or potential uses contrary to the conservation or preservation of the site as a whole?

YES: _____ NO: __X_____

3. JUSTIFICATION FOR INSCRIPTION IN THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

3.a. Criteria under which inscription is proposed

From the World Heritage criteria listed below, identify each criterion that you believe applies to your property and briefly state why you believe each criterion you have selected is applicable.

*Explanation: You may find the discussion under this heading in "Appendix A" to the **Guide to the U.S. World Heritage Program** to be helpful in completing this section. Please refer to a paper copy or follow the hyperlink.*

To be included on the World Heritage List, a site must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one of these ten selection criteria in a global context:

i. represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;

This criterion applies to the property I am proposing

As part of the Savannah Plan, the Bull Street Corridor is representative of a masterwork of human genius as an outstanding example of growth by design between 1733 and 1856. The ability of the ward plan design to accommodate pedestrians and vehicular traffic, to retain its original form over 200 years while responding to evolving economic, physical and social pressures enabling diverse ethnic and economic levels to live and function side by side in a democratic urban environment is remarkable.

The Bull Street corridor as a sample of the Savannah City Plan with its streets and squares is a landscape which was initially designed to respond to specific social, economic, climatic and administrative needs and which also responded to the immediate natural environment. Begun as a utopia, in which colonists would live in community centered squares laid out at regular intervals, the Bull Street Corridor has become a central spine differentiated from the rest of the city by its most impressive monuments. These serve as landmarks that provide orientation while embellishing the landscape. Furthermore, the Bull Street Corridor is a completely unaltered example of the planning principles originally conceived in 1733. Main cross streets, Broughton, Oglethorpe, Liberty, and Jones Streets, define the wards to the north and south, while narrower streets form the edges of the squares within each ward. The system of lanes that pass between each set of tything blocks were narrower still. That this hierarchy of streets could be repeated in a legible and functional patterns speaks to the creative genius of the plan. It continued to evolve over time and plays an active role in the contemporary cultural life of Savannah. The plan and squares exhibit significant material evidence of their evolution over time.

Carl Feiss, an American City Planner wrote in the Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians in 1951 “The organic part in the life of Savannah played by the open squares was likewise as advance on contemporary planning practice. Although the Eighteenth Century was the age of squares, they appeared for the most part in response to a desire for civic adornment, or, as in England, to provide noble frontages for aristocratic homes. Seldom were they conceived as integral parts of the town’s arterial system. Yet this is what Savannah’s squares have always been. Markets have been held in them; soldiers have drilled in them; children have played in them. In them the very life of this town has been fostered and to imagine Savannah without them would be to imagine it without its soul.”

Residents and visitors alike are affected by the discipline and order of the plan and the garden-like atmosphere of this cultural landscape. Savannah’s squares were and are accessible public open spaces which form an outdoor extension to the restricted living space of the narrow urban lots.

An important American, the poet and abolitionist, William Cullen Bryant wrote in his Letters of a Traveller published in New York in 1850,

“Savannah is beautifully laid out; its broad streets are thickly planted with Pride of India, and its frequent open squares shaded with trees of various kinds. Oglethorpe seems to have understood how a city should be built in a warm climate, and the people of the place are fond of reminding the stranger that the original plan of the founder has never been departed from.”

Foreign visitors come to Savannah because of its reputation for beauty, culture, squares, humanly scaled environment and historic preservation. In 1976 through a State Department exchange several dozen Russian visitors came to Savannah for the purpose to visit a city where tourists were welcomed into culturally enriched areas. Similar visits from public officials of L’Viv in the Ukraine (1994) and Tbilisi in Georgia (2006) followed. In 2006 Professor Ruan Yisan, Director of the National Resources Center of Historic Cities and professor at Tongji University College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Shanghai and a number of government officials from Qinghai Province in western China visited Savannah to observe the plan and preservation regimes in effect. From 2004-2006 Savannah participated in a cultural exchange with Yogyakarta and Bukittinggi, Indonesia. The ideas gained from the Indonesian stakeholder’s visits to Savannah were applied to their efforts to preserve the Gamelan neighborhood surrounding the Yogyakarta Palace and Tamansari gardens.

- ii. *exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;*

This criterion applies to the property I am proposing

As a completely unaltered sample of the Savannah Plan, which itself is the manifestation of centuries of urban planning experiments in England and her colonies, the Bull Street Corridor represents an interchange of human values. The innovative repetition of ward units established, “a social pattern desirable for a frontier settlement where cooperation and neighborly assistance were essential to survival.” Thus its regularity speaks to its founder’s vision of the new colony as a utopian state, while its continuity within the tradition of British planning responds to the aesthetic values of Western Europe. The Bull Street Corridor is culturally significant in its representation of the interchange of ideas about ideal town planning, as seen in its resemblance to previous planning endeavors after the Great Fire of London in 1666 and those implemented for the colonial cities of Londonderry and Coleraine in Ireland.

The placement of monuments along the Bull Street Corridor, literally monumentalizing the squares, is an act of formally expressing the significance of people and events in the history of the city. The Bull Street Corridor is thus a cultural landscape in that it is a defined area that reflects the values of early American culture and was a setting for significant historical events.

iii. *bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;*

This criterion applies to the property I am proposing

The Savannah plan is exceptional in its representation of English planning traditions of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The squares along the Bull Street corridor not only constitute the finest representative slice of this plan, but are a testimony to cultural traditions and aesthetics embraced in Georgian London and the American Colonies.

A new pattern of land subdivision emerged in the seventeenth century in a series of speculative building developments. The laying out of new residential developments such as Leicester Fields, Lincoln's Inn Fields, Bloomsbury Square, and Soho Square, was pioneered by Inigo Jones' Covent Garden in the 1630s. Leading up to the time of the settlement on the new Georgia Colony, a number of other development projects were begun. Between 1684 and 1720, five new squares were designed.

Much of this development was in response to the Great Fire of London in 1666. Plans for the reconstruction of the city would embrace a new type of urban planning in which the residential square became a key feature of the cityscape. Comprehensive plans by Robert Hooke and Richard Newcourt built on the Covent Garden precedent and introduced the Italian *piazza* into the regular vocabulary of the British designer. Newcourt's scheme can be most directly related to the plan of Savannah in its proposed grid of broad streets in a series of forty-eight blocks arranged around an over-scaled open square. The blocks were "uniform residential areas conceived as parish units," and were separated by major streets and linked by a secondary grid. In this way, the Newcourt plan not only resembles Savannah's layout in its incorporation of a series of nonhierarchical squares, but in its function as small, neighborhood units. The scale of the plan, in which terraced houses were constructed around existing or newly created open spaces, creating private, residential squares with a parish church set in a modular pattern of blocks, is also similar to that of Savannah's ward system. Although the Savannah plan cannot be directly linked to Newcourt's scheme, as it was only in manuscript form at the time of the city's founding, the similarities between the two designs are representative of ideas circulating at the time.



**Figure 2 Hanover Square Stow
London Squares**

Among the sites constructed in this program of redevelopment was Hanover Square in 1712, which would be particularly influential on the Savannah plan. Like the squares of Savannah, streets addressed the central square on axis and at the corners. The trustees would have been familiar with the "residential square as a unit of urban growth" at the time of the conception of the Savannah plan, thus "it is difficult not to

conclude that the squares of Georgian London furnished the models after which the plans of

Savannah and other towns of the colony were fashioned. Furthermore, in 1731 John Bowles published a set of engravings by Sutton Nicholls illustrating this planning phenomenon in London. Thousands of these images would have been sold as decorative prints. This type of urban planning developed as a response to the increased desire for civic ornament in England that sought to “provide noble frontages for aristocratic homes,” rendering the eighteenth century an “age of squares.” Unlike London, however, the delights of squares incorporated in the first city founded in the Colony of Georgia would not be reserved for the aristocracy, but would benefit the entire populace of settlers.

- iv. be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;*

This criterion applies to the property I am proposing

The Bull Street Corridor is comprised of a series of squares within a ward system that constitutes an outstanding urban landscape illustrating a significant stage in the development of colonial American cities. While Savannah is among the earliest planned towns in North America, it builds on the design of cities such as Philadelphia. In this context, it becomes representative of city planning during the colonial period.

- v. be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;*

This criterion applies to the property I am proposing

If the Savannah plan is exceptional in its representation of English planning traditions in London, then it is also an outstanding example of the British effort to export these ideas through the founding of colonial cities. The most closely related example in the Americas was the planning of Philadelphia by William Penn in 1682, which would have been familiar to the trustees of the Georgia colony by way of advertisements published in England. The layout of the city is characterized by the integration of major open squares with the traditional gridiron network of streets. Furthermore, the ‘liberty lands,’ a system of town and country land grants, may have provided a model for Oglethorpe’s distribution of garden and farm lots just beyond the city limits at Savannah. In this way, both plans are indebted to the “agricultural village pattern established in New England” pioneered in the first English settlements.

Ebenezer was among the first towns laid out under the guidance of Oglethorpe and the trustees during the early stages of development in the new colony. The Salzburgers, a group of exiled Protestants from Austria led by Philip George Baron Von Reck, arrived in the New World in 1734. Oglethorpe and Von Reck selected a site several miles north of Savannah, and after clearing the land proceeded to lay out a site not unlike

the plan of Savannah. Though the original plat of Ebenezer does not survive, the town's design was similar to that of Savannah, particularly in its resemblance to Hanover Square.

Oglethorpe himself cites the influence of the Ulster Plantation towns as "a Precedent of our own for planning Colonies, which...may be worthy of our Imitation," in a 1732 promotional tract. These fortified towns laid out at the beginning of the seventeenth century in northern Ireland also served as models for William Penn in Philadelphia. The design of Londonderry and Coleraine, in which streets intersect the square on axis and at the corners, can actually be combined to produce the form of the tything and trust lots framing each of Savannah's squares. Although this makes a strong case for their influence, it is clear that systems of land subdivision begun in New England and repeated at Philadelphia, in combination with the greater body of urban planning occurring contemporaneously in England, renders the Savannah plan more than a copy of some earlier design. The plan is thus representative of traditions in urban planning well established in English culture.

- vi. be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);***

This criterion applies to the property I am proposing

The Bull Street Corridor can be directly linked to artistic works of outstanding universal significance through the design of the monument to Oglethorpe by Daniel Chester French and Henry Bacon, sculptor and architect commissioned for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C. The monument to Oglethorpe is, therefore, among the great works of early twentieth century architecture and sculpture.

- vii. contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;***

This criterion applies to the property I am proposing

The aesthetic importance of the Savannah Plan is best demonstrated by the Bull Street corridor. The plan is unique in its repetition of regular squares, creating a sense of unity and continuity within the city while the landscaping and monuments that ornament the squares differentiate them and act as landmarks, providing both embellishment and orientation. The view from Bull Street, in which a series of squares can be viewed in succession in any direction, is visually pleasing. The layout of Savannah is thereby superior to other axial plans, such as Paris or Washington D. C. because it creates "a sense of being within a complete organism." The exceptional aesthetic experience

achieved through the merging of these two design principles, continuity and differentiation, has been appreciated by visitors to the city since its inception.

3.b. Proposed statement of outstanding universal value

Based on the criteria you have selected just above, provide a brief **Proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value** summarizing and making clear why you think the property merits inscription on the World Heritage List. If adopted by the World Heritage Committee, the statement “will be the key reference for the future effective protection and management of the property.”

*Explanation: This statement should clearly explain the **internationally** significant values embodied by the property, **not** its **national** prominence.*

*“**Outstanding Universal Value**” is formally defined as “... cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole.”*

Cultural landscapes

Such landscapes illustrate the evolution of human society and settlement over time under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by the natural environment and of successive social, economic, and cultural forces, both external and internal.

The Historic Center of Savannah Bull Street Corridor as a sample representing the totality of the Savannah Plan has outstanding universal value as a significant example of growth by design. It embodies the synthesis of centuries of urban planning experiments in England and her colonies and is an ideal town plan that was fully realized, has endured and continues to play a vital role in the community’s contemporary life. The continuity of the ward layout together with the quality of the landscaping and monuments which differentiate the squares creates a universally recognized exceptional artistic achievement.

3.c. Comparison of proposed property to similar or related properties (including state of preservation of similar properties)

Savannah was Great Britain’s last major American colonial capital. Old city maps of earlier colonial cities such as New Haven, Connecticut (1636), Charleston, South Carolina (1672), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1682), Detroit, Michigan (1701), Mobile, Alabama (1711), New Orleans, Louisiana (1721), and San Antonio, Texas (1730) show typical examples of American grid planning. In only a few places, notably Annapolis, Maryland (1694), and Williamsburg, Virginia (1699), did colonial planners use a more unusual design. In these two places the planner used a variety of civic spaces and located major buildings at the ends of streets to give them greater prominence.

Savannah differed from all previous American towns because of its unusual and effective design. It thus stands, according to Professor John Reps, as a landmark in the history of urban planning. The plan reflected political and organizational considerations. Each ward had Tythingmen who shared guard and other duties. Each ward was also tied to a larger regional plan. The structure of this larger plan affected future development patterns. No part of the modern extension of the City of Savannah, at any point in time, can be understood without reference to the organizational, topographic, and historical context of the original regional plan.

Savannah's grid plan also differed in its repetitive nonhierarchical placement of wards and squares insuring each lot holder equal sized lots, a reflection of the utopian ideals of the colony. Savannah unlike most utopian town plans, was carried through to completion. One of the more important utopian aspects of the plan was to create an environment to encourage social equality. Oglethorpe's plan combined these needs with defensive requirements and created a plan that was orderly and uniform while incorporating many other features for health and safety. This plan influences other settlement proposals later in the century, notably New Ebenezer, Darien, and Brunswick in Georgia and Radnor in South Carolina. Savannah, alone among these other towns, remains intact.

British town planning in North America in the 17th to 19th centuries included the "southern tier" (the 13 colonial colonies that became the United States and the "northern tier" now the Canadian Provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario.

Lunenburg in Nova Scotia founded 20 years after Savannah also included the allocation of town lot and garden lot. It has been inscribed on the World Heritage list as an extremely well preserved example of 18th century British colonization and settlement patterns in North America.

The Savannah plan in the "southern tier" is equally well preserved. The Savannah plan included the further refinements of large open squares at the center of each ward. In addition to a garden lot each settler was also allocated a much larger Farm lot. The divisions between the garden and farm lots are evident in the subsequent street patterns as the city grew.

Major works which discuss Savannah in world context

Bacon, Edmond C. *Design of Cities*, Revised Edition. New York: Penguin Books, 1974.

Reps, John W. " $C^2 + L^2 = S^2$? Another Look at the Origins of Savannah's Town Plan." In *Forty Years of Diversity: Essays on Colonial Georgia*, Harvey H. Jackson and Phinizy Spalding, Eds. Athens, Georgia: The University of Georgia Press, 1984.

_____. *The Making of Urban America: A History of City Planning in the United States*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1965.

3.d. Integrity and/or Authenticity

Explanation: As with a site's international significance, the clear intent of this requirement is that a World Heritage Site's authenticity or integrity must rise to a superlative level. Thus, for example, it is quite important to understand that reconstructions of historic structures or sites or largely restored ecosystems will usually be disqualified from inscription in the World Heritage List.

Cultural landscapes:

Authenticity: Does the property retain its distinctive character and components?

YES: X NO:

Comment: The integrity and authenticity of the layout of the ward and square pattern of the Bull Street Corridor is intact.

4. STATE OF PRESERVATION AND FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

4.a. Present state of preservation of the property

Cultural landscapes:

What is the present state of preservation of the property (including its physical condition and preservation measures in place)?

The Bull Street Corridor squares are in excellent physical condition. The Park and Tree Department of the City of Savannah maintains the squares and monuments. Litter removal is done on a daily basis. Grounds maintenance is done on a weekly basis. Maintenance is funded through the City's operating budget. The monuments are on a cleaning and maintenance cycle of 3-5 years. General monument maintenance is funded through the operating budget. Restoration and conservation work is funded through the capital improvement program, with supplemental funding provided by endowments. The Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission makes recommendations to the Mayor and Aldermen concerning new monuments in the squares. The City of Savannah has recently adopted a "Markers, Monuments, and Public Art Master Plan and Guidelines" for the City of Savannah which includes the Bull Street Corridor Squares. The Bull Street Corridor as well as the surrounding Landmark District buffer zone is part of a local historic district and as such development must be reviewed for appropriateness.

Are there any recent or forthcoming planned major repair projects? Are there any major repairs needed to buildings or structures that have not been planned or financed?

YES: _____ NO: X

Comment: _____

4b. Factors affecting the property

If there are known factors likely to affect or threaten the outstanding universal values of the property or there any difficulties that may be encountered in addressing such problems through measures taken, or proposed to be taken, please use the following is a checklist to help in identifying factors.

(i) Development Pressures (e.g., encroachment, modification, agriculture, mining)

Are there development pressures affecting the property? Or major changes in traditional land use? Or demographic shifts, especially in sites still in the hands of the descendants of their creators, or, for example, traditional ethnic communities.

YES: _____ NO: X

Comment: _____

(ii) *Environmental pressures (e.g., pollution, climate change, desertification)*

Are there major sources of environmental deterioration currently affecting the property?

YES: ☒X_____ NO: _____

Comment: Acid rain can deteriorate calcareous rock in the monuments. This is monitored by the park and Tree Department which has undertaken a number of major conservation projects on the monument using national experts.

(iii) *Natural disasters and risk preparedness (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.)*

Are natural disasters likely to present a foreseeable threat to the property? If so, are there available background data (e.g., for a property in a seismic zone, give details of past seismic activity, or the precise location of the property in relation to the seismic zone, etc.)

YES: ☒X_____ NO: _____

Comment: Savannah has been in the past and will likely be in the future hit by Hurricane force winds.

Are there contingency plans for dealing with disasters, whether by physical protection measures or staff training?

YES: ☒X_____ NO: _____

Comment: The squares are included in the City of Savannah hurricane plan. The post storm protocol consists of three parts: debris removal, damage assessment, and restoration.

(iv) *Visitor/tourism pressures*

If the property is open to visitors, is there an established or estimated "carrying capacity" of the property? Can it absorb or mitigate the current or an increased number of visitors without significant adverse effects?

YES: ☒X_____ NO: _____

Comment: The impact from day-to-day tourism is not great. The tourists are dispersed over a large area, and mainly stay on the brick walkways. There is a written policy governing special events and reserved uses. The policy limits the amount of use and provides for a damage deposit. The St. Patrick's Day Parade has a large impact on several of the squares and is largely

unregulated. This issue may need to be addressed at some point in the future. The impacts from square use are mitigated through an intensive year round maintenance program.

(v) *Other*

Are there any other risks or threats that could jeopardize the property's Outstanding Universal Values?

YES: _____ NO: X

Comment: _____

5. PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

5.a. Ownership

City of Savannah
City Manager's Office
P. O. Box 1027
Savannah, Georgia 31402
Tel: (912) 651-6415
Fax: (912) 238-0872
E-Mail: Michael.Brown@savannahga.gov
Web: www.savannahga.gov

If any of these owners are corporations or other nongovernmental entities, identify which are public and which private. Identify any traditional or customary owners.

Public organization owners: NA

Private organization owners: NA

Traditional or customary owners: NA

If there are any other authorities with legal responsibility for managing the property, provide their names and addresses:

 NA

For properties having multiple owners, is there any representative body or agent which speaks for all owners? If so, does that representative body or agent have authority to act on behalf of all the owners? If so, provide the name and address of that representative body or agent:

___NA_____

Are there any restrictions on public access to the property?

Explanation: Public access is not required for inclusion in the World Heritage List. Policies in effect should be explained, however.)

YES: _____ NO: ___X___

Comment: The squares are fully accessible to the general public, however private use of the squares is governed by a written policy.

5.b. Protective designations

What are the principal existing (and pending) legal measures of protection that apply to the property?

Explanation: List, but do not attach copies of, all relevant known or proposed legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and/or traditional measures that affect the status of the property: e.g., national park, wildlife refuge, historic monument, zoning, easements, covenants, deed restrictions, State and local historic preservation ordinances and regulations, and the like.

List of measures: Park and Tree Department yearly work program
Park and Tree Department Tree lawn brochure
Park and Tree policy on square use
City of Savannah Historic District Zoning Ordinance

Give the title and date of legal instruments and briefly summarize their main provisions. Provide the year of designation and the legislative act(s) under which the status is provided.

Titles, dates, and brief summaries of legal instruments:_____

Are the protections in perpetuity or are there potential gaps in the protection?

YES: ___X___ NO: _____

Comment: The squares and the corridor have been protected since their founding in 1733. Rules and processes regarding their preservation have been steadily strengthened over time and there is nothing on the horizon to indicate that these rules would be weakened in the future.

Are there any traditional ways in which custom safeguards the property?

YES: _____ NO: X

Comment: _____

5.c. Means of implementing protective measures

Will the owner(s) be responsible for ensuring that the nominated property will be protected in perpetuity, whether by traditional and/or statutory agencies? If no, identify who will be responsible.

YES: X NO: _____

Responsible entity other than the owner: _____

What is the adequacy of resources available for this purpose? Please briefly explain your reasoning.

_____.

5.d. Existing plans related to municipality and region in which the proposed property is located (e.g., regional or local plan, conservation plan, tourism development plan)

Explanation: List, but do not attach, plans of which you are aware that have been officially adopted or are currently under development by governmental or other agencies that you believe directly influence the way the property is developed, conserved, used or visited. Include the dates and agencies responsible for their preparation and describe their general nature, including whether they have the force of law. It is recognized that this information may be difficult to compile and that it may be difficult to decide what to include, but the information will be very useful in determining how well the property is protected.

Downtown Master Plan is under development in 2007.

5.e. Property management plan or other management system

Is there a formal management plan or other management system for the property? If yes, when was it last updated? If not, is one in preparation and when will it be completed? (*It is not necessary to provide copies, but a summary can be included if one is available.*)

YES: X NO: _____

Comment: There is not currently a formal management plan, but the management plan consists of the Park and Tree Department's work program, budget, and maintenance schedule.

The Park and Tree Commission which oversees the parks was commissioned in 1896 and has continuously stewarded the protection of Savannah's squares. They have an up-to-date tree inventory and a tree planting plan; they commissioned a monument inventory and conditions assessment and implemented a multi-year restoration plan for the monuments. The monuments are now on a cyclical maintenance plan.

Is this management plan or other management system being effectively implemented?

YES: X NO:

Comment: _____

6. MONITORING

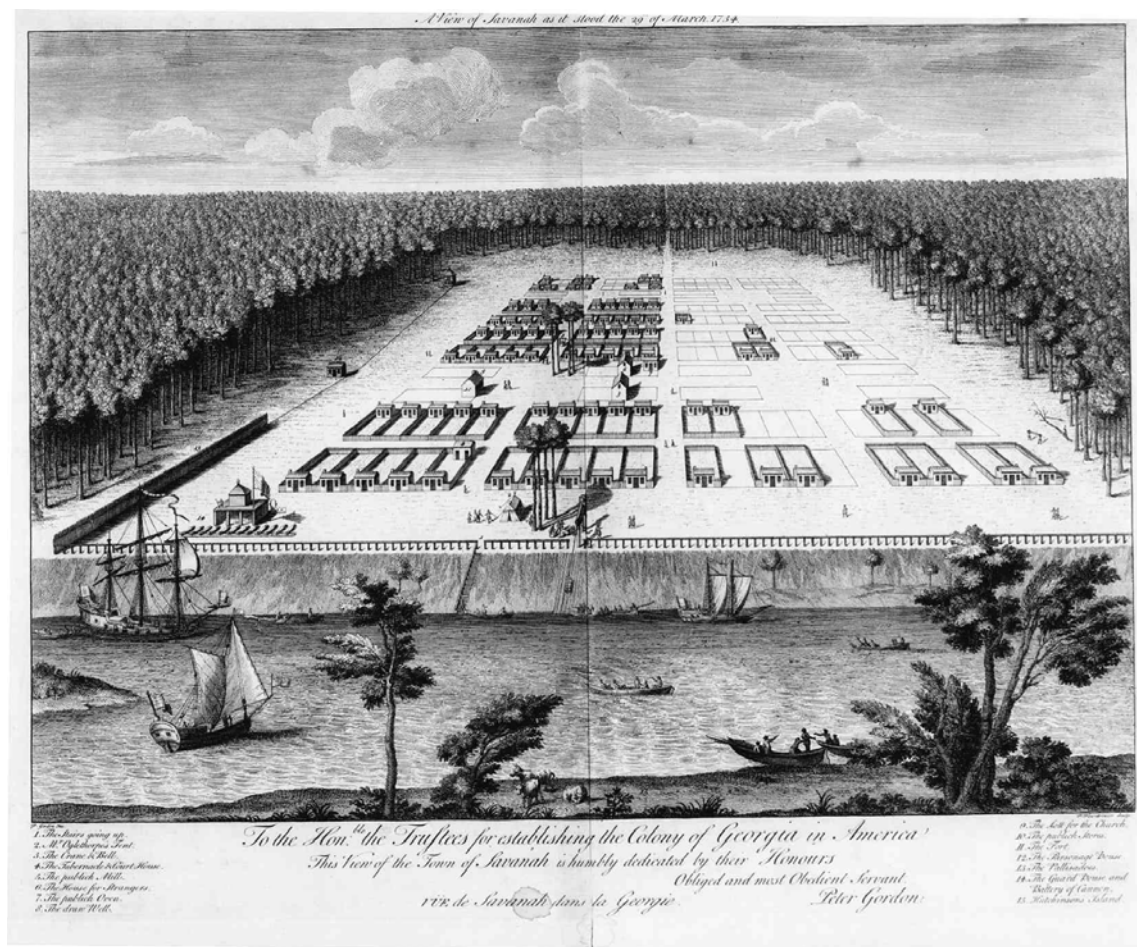
Because monitoring the condition of a property is not essential to a decision as to whether a property meets the basic qualifications for nomination to the World Heritage List, no information about the property's monitoring program is being requested at this time. If the property is subsequently added to the U.S. Tentative List, a set of key indicators for assessing the property's condition, the arrangements for monitoring it, and information on the results of past monitoring exercises will be required to complete the nomination of the property for inscription on the World Heritage List,.

7. DOCUMENTATION

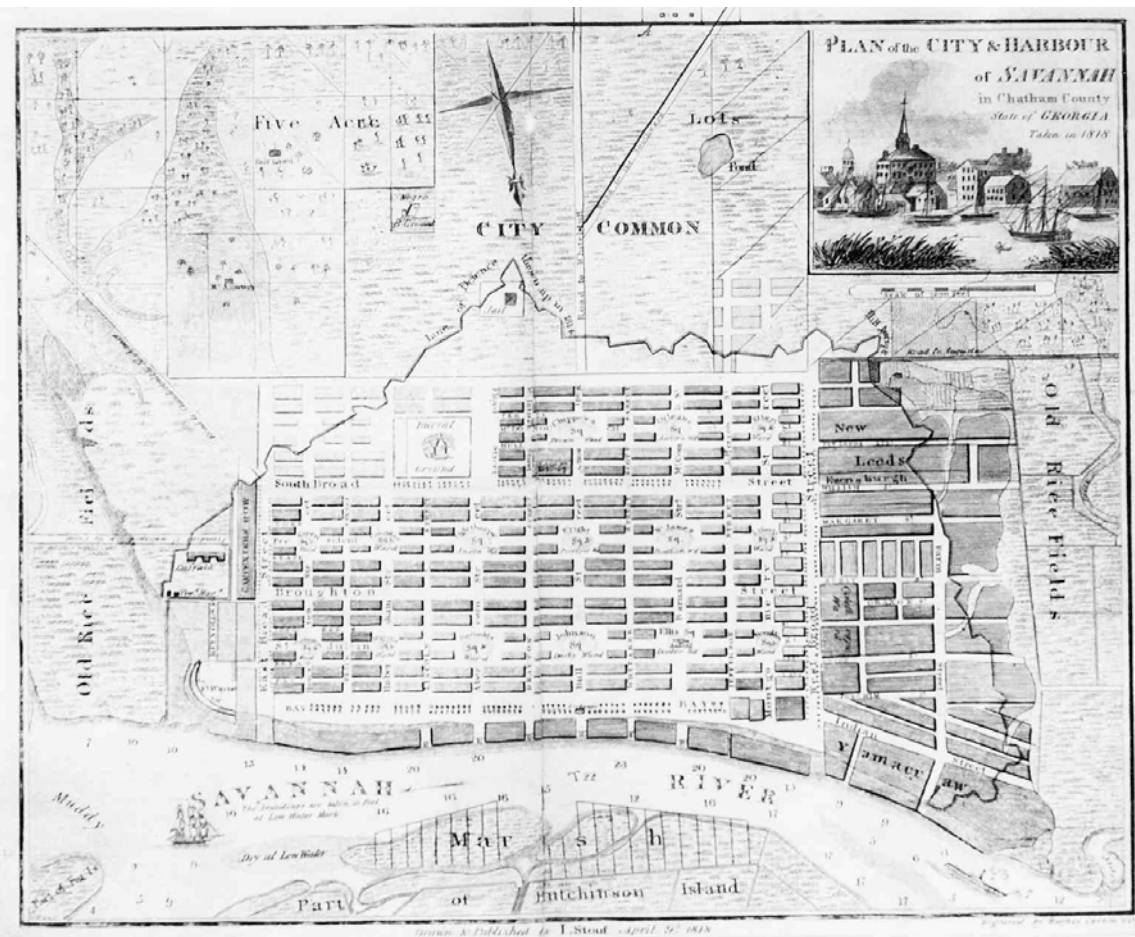
7.a Photographs, slides, and other audiovisual materials

Maps and Views:

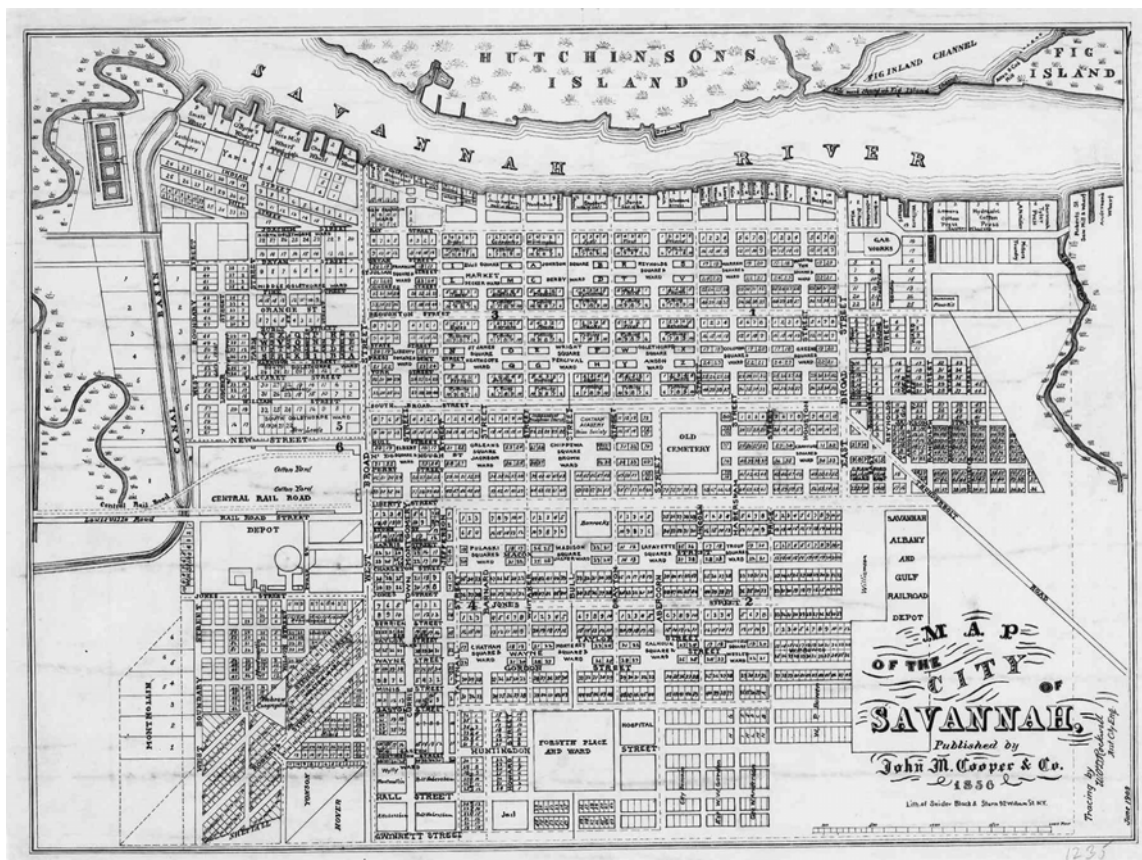
1. 1734 Peter Gordon Map Hargrett Collection University Of Georgia
2. 1818 Map of Savannah Hargrett Collection University of Georgia
3. 1856 Cooper Map of Savannah, Hargrett Collection University of Georgia



1734 Peter Gordon Map Hargrett Collection University of Georgia



1818 Map of Savannah Hargrett Collection University of Georgia



1856 Cooper Map of Savannah, Hargrett Collection University of Georgia

Photos

1. Johnson Square
2. Johnson Square from Christ Church
3. Johnson Square
4. Wright Square and Gordon Monument
5. View to Wright Square
6. Wright Square
7. Wright Square
8. Chippewa Square and Oglethorpe Monument
9. View to Chippewa Square
10. Madison Square and Jasper Monument
11. Madison Square
12. Monterey Square and Pulaski Monument
13. Monterey Square
14. Monterey Square
15. Forsyth Park
16. Forsyth Park and Fountain

All Photographs by Andy Young



Johnson Square



Johnson Square from Christ Church



Johnson Square

TO RECOGNIZE
SERVICES
OF COLONEL
WHO FIGHTED
IN THE
AND LAYING
FOR SAV.

THE
WAR
IN
SOUTH
CAROLINA

THE
SOUTH
CAROLINA
IN THE
WAR



Wright Square and Gordon Monument



View to Wright Square



Wright Square



Wright Square



Chippewa Square
and Oglethorpe Monument



View to Chippewa Square



Madison Square and Jasper Monument

Madison Square



HERE, IN 1735, WAS
THE BEGINNING OF
THE ROAD TO DARIEN
NOW CALLED THE
OCEEGHEE ROAD,
PROBABLY THE FIRST
ROAD LAID OUT IN
GEORGIA,
WITH THE ASSISTANCE
OF TOMOCHICHI.

ERECTED BY THE
SAVANNAH CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION
1920.



Monterey Square and Pulaski Monument



SAVANNAH: 9 OCT. 1779




Monterey Square



Monterey Square



Forsyth Park

A photograph of Forsyth Park in Savannah, Georgia, featuring the Forsyth Fountain in the center. The fountain is a multi-tiered, ornate structure with water spraying upwards and outwards. It is surrounded by a low, decorative metal fence. In the foreground, a large, mature tree with thick, gnarled branches and Spanish moss hangs from them, frames the left side of the image. The ground is a mix of gravel paths and grass. Several black lampposts with white globe lights are scattered throughout the park. The background is filled with lush green trees and foliage. The sky is overcast and grey.

Forsyth Park
and
Fountain

8. CONTACT INFORMATION

8a. Preparer/Responsible Party for Contact:

Name:	Beth Reiter	Jay Self
	MPC Historic Preservation Director	Tourism & Film Services Director
	P. O. Box 8246	P. O. Box 1027
	Savannah, Georgia 31412	Savannah, Georgia 31402
Telephone:	(912) 651-1453	(912) 651-2360
Cell:	-	(912) 667-1803
Fax:	(912) 651-1480	
E. Mail:	<u>reiterm@thempc.org</u>	<u>Jay_Self@savannahga.gov</u>

8.b. Responsible Official or Local Institution/Agency

City of Savannah
 City Manager's Office
 P. O. Box 1027
 Savannah, Georgia 31402
 Tel: (912) 651-6415
 Fax: (912) 238-0872
 E-Mail: Michael Brown@savannahga.gov
 Web: www.savannahga.gov

9. Signatures of All Owners of Private Properties or Authorizing Officials for Public Properties:

Explanation: No property will be included in the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List without the written concurrence of all its property owners. This is because U.S. law expressly forbids nomination of such sites. In addition, at the time of nomination, property owners must pledge to the legal protection or the development of legal protection of the property in perpetuity.

Michael B. Brown

Signature

Michael B. Brown

Typed or Printed Name

Title: City Manager, City of Savannah

Date

HISTORIC
SAVANNAH
FOUNDATION

March 28, 2007

Mr. James Charleton, Contractor
U.S. World Heritage Tentative List
Office of International Affairs (0050)
1201 Eye Street, N.W. Suite 550 A
U. S. National Park Service
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: Application for Inclusion on the US World Heritage Tentative List

Dear Mr. Charleton:

I am writing in support of the application for the Bull Street Corridor Squares, Savannah, Georgia to be added to the U. S. World Heritage Tentative List. This corridor with its repetitive public open spaces, handsome monuments, set in a unique urban street grid best illustrates the evolution of the greater Savannah plan over time. It is a continuing landscape that retains an active social role in contemporary Savannah. The evolutionary process of this public realm is still in progress and handsomely illustrates the combined works of nature and man.

I urge you to give the City of Savannah's application your strongest support. Millions of visitors from the United States and abroad enjoy these squares every year. This is truly a site of enduring world significance. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

HISTORIC SAVANNAH FOUNDATION



Mark C. McDonald
Executive Director

lhv



Coastal Heritage Society

Dedicated to preserving the cultural and natural heritage of the coastal area and providing a sense of awareness and pride in this heritage through programs of active public involvement.

303 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Savannah, GA 31401-4217
912.651.6840 Fax 912.651.6971 www.chsgeorgia.org

March 28, 2007

Mr. James Charleton, Contractor
U.S. World Heritage Tentative List
Office of International Affairs (0050)
1201 Eye Street, N.W. Suite 550 A
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Washington, D. C. 20240

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Sincerely,

Scott W. Smith
Executive Director